

SUNDAY, September 24, 2023

WORSHIP NOTES

Worship Services Online

Click [here](#) to go to Covenant's Facebook page (or copy this link and paste it into your browser: <https://www.facebook.com/Covenant-CRC-520064914738965/>). Then click on the "Videos" section and watch for the live video to show shortly before 10:00 AM. You can also watch a recorded version of the service after it is over.

Sunday Morning Worship

This Sunday, **September 24**, Pastor Joel will be preaching from the [lectionary](#), using the New Testament passage as we learn together about God's vision for his church. While our practice is to celebrate the Lord's Supper each week during our morning service, on the last Sunday of the month, we celebrate in the evening service instead. Here is a link to the [mobile-friendly worship guide](#).

Sunday Evening Vespers

Our Sunday evening gatherings at 6:00 PM typically follow the pattern of Vespers, or Evening Prayer, in which we spend time in prayer, praise, silence, and meditation, using prayers and litanies from the *Book of Common Prayer*. This evening we will also celebrate the Lord's Supper together.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All-Church Picnic

This Sunday, **September 24**, after the morning service, we will gather for our annual all-church picnic at Children's Park. We will again be sharing a potluck lunch, with each family bringing a hot and cold dish to share along with your own table service. The meal will begin about 12:30. Dordt students are encouraged to join us! Plates and silverware will be provided for Dordt students and guests and drinks will be provided for all.

Smile & Say Cheese!

The 50th Anniversary Committee is working on a 50th Anniversary book that will hopefully include photos of our current church members. So there will be photographers in the fellowship hall for the next weeks ready to take your family's photo! (And bonus – we will use these for the church directory as well!) So find a photographer and smile!

October Courier

The October Courier is in your mailbox and can be found here: tinyurl.com/Oct23Courier

Church Directory

Can you take a minute to check out your directory listing on the table in the fellowship hall to see if it looks correct? And parents – please add any cell phone numbers or email addresses you'd like included for your kids too! Thanks!

GEMS Kickoff

The GEMS Kickoff is this Wednesday, **September 27!** We'll meet at Covenant from 7:00-8:30 PM. We'll be tie-dying our theme shirts, playing games, eating snacks, and handing out our fundraising packet. All girls in grades 4-8 are welcome!

Women's Book Study

Unshakable Hope by Max Lucado is our next book study for the Women's group. Please consider joining us on Thursday, **September 28** at 9:00 AM in the Council Room. We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. So order a book online – we'd love to have you join us. Call Rin with questions (722-4394)

Women's Breakfast

Calling all females:(no age limit)! Join us for breakfast at church on Saturday, **September 30** at 8:00 AM. It's a chance to visit and get to know each other and enjoy a meal together. Please sign up [online](#) or on the back table.

The Church Retreat is Coming!

Save the date, **October 13**, for the Covenant retreat where, in the tradition of retreats held over the past 50 years, we will concentrate on laughing together. Please start now to think about what makes you and your family laugh (e.g., fun experience, skit, activity, game, story, or joke) and consider sharing it with the rest of us – and please don't wait till the last minute!! Contact Len and Lee Rhoda (722-1854) or John and Linda Visser (712-441-1608) with your offerings.

Baby Shower!

Let's celebrate the birth of Clara Ho! We invite you to bring gifts to the basket in the fellowship hall. After the service on **October 15**, Jason, Sara, and Clara will greet the church family at the back of the sanctuary. The Hos will bring the gifts home so they can open them as a family. You are welcome to bring gift cards or money to the church office as well. Let's welcome this new baby to our Covenant family!

Interested in a Small Group?

The Small Group Ministry at Covenant seeks to enfold members—families, couples, singles, and students—into groups that meet regularly (once or twice a month) for fellowship, study, worship, prayer, and outreach. Mostly, they aim to build community at Covenant. Groups are inter-generational and are definitely family friendly. We hope to incorporate new folks into groups in the next month. Sound interesting? Ready to join? Or need more information? Sign up in the back of church or contact Bob & Rebecca De Smith at bdesmith@mtcnet.net.

Pizza BOGO Cards on Sale!

Fruited Plain BOGO cards are currently on sale! The Covenant Christian Education Committee is once again partnering with the Fruited Plain to offer this amazing deal! Each pizza card costs \$30 and is good for 5 punches to buy one pizza and get one free. They make delightful gifts for anyone and are handy to have on hand for a family pizza night. College kids – remind your parents you need pizza to study well! Pizza cards can be purchased at the Fruited Plain through the end of October. \$10 from every sale goes towards meeting our Christian Education Fund commitments.

Looking for Tech Help!

We are looking for anyone high school aged and older who might be interested in serving our congregation in worship by running the projection and video for our services. We will train you! If you are interested, contact Rebecca DeVries (rebecca.ann.devries@gmail.com).

An Evening of Praise

Mark your calendars for "An Evening of Praise" on Friday, **October 6**. Bible League International (BLI) Ambassadors are sponsoring a music concert at the B.J. Haan Auditorium at Dordt University in Sioux Center at 7 p.m. The groups that are performing are Four for Him, the Klaasens, and Ensemble Royale. The evening will also feature a six-handed piano arrangement performed by Trio BDT. A free will offering will be taken for BLI and every \$5.00 raised will cover the cost of putting a Bible written in a language that they can understand in the hands of people around the world. Please invite your friends and family to "An Evening of Praise." All are welcome!

Young Author's Conference

JOYnd Together, a non-profit organization dedicated to uniting school and church communities through running and literacy activities rooted in faith, will be hosting a Young Authors Conference on Saturday, **October 7**, from 9:00 AM to noon at Sioux Center High School. The conference will feature the esteemed and award-winning author Daniel Nayeri as the keynote speaker. Not only is Mr. Nayeri a remarkable storyteller with a distinctive ability to captivate young minds with his creative works, but he also has a compelling story of faith which will be central to his involvement with our conference. All community members are invited to hear his opening session where he will share the inspiring story that he recounts in his New York Times best-selling novel *Everything Sad is Untrue: A True Story*. A book signing and breakfast will follow the opening session and students in grades 3-12 will have the opportunity to stay for fun activities and instruction led by Mr. Nayeri. You can register here: <https://joyndtogether.com/young-authors-conference>

Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please pray for God's blessing on the Maria Magdalena Reformed congregation and the ministry of Pastors Martha Draayer and Jason Lief.

Last week's offering General Fund \$3,690.00 Christian Education Fund \$5,287.00

Giving at Covenant

There are a variety of ways to give at Covenant! To give online, click [here](#). You can also give by leaving your offering in the boxes located at the entrances, mailing a check to church, paying via online bill pay at your bank, or by ACH Bank Transfer. Just a reminder, all cash/checks will be used as needed unless designated. Contact your deacon with any questions.

Helpful Links:

- The Bulletin Announcements and a link to Sunday's bulletin and liturgy are posted [here](#).
- The Community Activities (Blue) Sheet is posted [here](#).
- Mission & Ministry News: A newsletter from the Crulls is [here](#) and the Groenewold-Van Dyks' August newsletter is [here](#). The Maletoungous' latest newsletter is [here](#) and a newsletter from the Ribbens is [here](#). ReFrame Ministry's September prayer requests are [here](#).

Sunday Servant Scheduling:

If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, please find your own replacement. Thank you.

	TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY, October 1
Greeters	AM: Donna B, Shirley M, Ron O	AM: Laremy DV, Cheri H, Val Z
Ushers	AM: Rockne MC, Sherri TN, Marcia W	AM: Wil A, Ruth Clo, Marge DB
Coffee	Natalie B, Dennis DJ, Deb H, James R, Daniel VS	Pat C, Terry F, Megan H, Merrill MC, John Z
Subs	Rob H, Mark H, Dave S, Dennis VP, Marty VP, Sharon V	Jo A, Jenni B, Sharon D, Luke H, Andy L, Dani W
Sound/Projection	Jeff P ♦ Tom C	Nick B ♦ Jason W
Nursery	AM: Ethan & Donna B, Alejandro & Isabel C	AM: Channon & Joni V, Barb T

Encouraging our Missionaries

Got a minute? Send one of our missionaries a note of encouragement by email!

Gianni & Georgina Gracia
giannigracia@yahoo.com

Sos & Kara Maletoungou
smaletoungou@acsi.org

Mike & Megan Ribbens
mribbens@gmail.com

Ben & Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk
tvandyk@crncnpartners.org

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Happy Birthday this Week

Rachel Hibma, Becky Stevenson, Morgan Hummel, Michael Ribbens, Paul Clousing, Aidan Vos, Levi Landman

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday, 24th	9:00 AM	Sunday School, Catechism, Covenant Sunday Morning
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	12:00 PM	All-Church Picnic (at Children's Park)
	6:00 PM	Vespers (Service of Evening Prayer)
Monday	7:00 PM	Full Council Meeting
Wednesday	10:00 AM	Prayer Group
	6:50 PM	Cadets (at Faith CRC)
	7:00 PM	GEMS Kick-Off
Thursday	9:00 AM	Women's Book Study
Saturday	8:00 AM	Women's Breakfast
Sunday, 1st	9:00 AM	Sunday School, Catechism, Covenant Sunday Morning
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	6:00 PM	Vespers (Service of Evening Prayer)
	7:15 PM	Sunday Evening Bible Study